

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04883 232227Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 L-03 MC-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /110 W

----- 095964

R 232159Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1860

DOD WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

INFO USCINCSO

USAFSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LETTER OF OFFER - F-5/A-37 AIRCRAFT FOR
ECUADOR

REF: A) QUITO 1225; B) STATE 044735; C) QUITO 1982

1. ACTING CHIEF USMLO (LTCOL GUZMAN) AND NEW AIRATT (LTCOL ROGERS) MET JULY 22 WITH ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE) C/S BGEN IZURIETA. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION IZURIETA STATED HE HAS BEEN EXPECTING FOR SOME TIME FORMAL LETTER OF OFFER (L/O) ON SUBJECT AIRCRAFT. HE EXPLICITLY ASKED LTCOL GUZMAN TO REQUEST L/O BY THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER DELAY, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE ENTIRE PACKAGE RECOMMENDED IN APRIL 25 REPORT BY USAF SURVEY TEAM.

2. IZURIETA SAID HE CONSIDERED LETTERS TO AMBASSADOR FROM MINDEF (REF C) REQUESTING USAF SURVEY TEAM AND STATING INTEREST IN F-5E AND A-37B PURCHASE AS TANTAMOUNT TO FORMAL REQUEST FOR L/O, AND EXPECTED SUBMISSION OF L/O AUTOMATICALLY SUBSEQUENT TO USAF SURVEY TEAM VISIT.

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PAGE 02 QUITO 04883 232227Z

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, EMBASSY REQUEST DEVELOPMENT OF FORMAL L/O FOR OUR PRESENTATION TO IZURIETA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE RECOMMEND THAT OFFER INCLUDE, PER USAF SURVEY TEAM REPORT, ADDITIONAL FOUR F-5E'S AS OPTIONAL ITEM.

4. IZURIETA HAS BEEN UNAPPROACHABLE SINCE USAF SURVEY TEAM VISIT IN APRIL. FAE STAFF HAS HERETOFORE INSISTED THAT DECISION TO PURCHASE BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING FURTHER TALKS IN WASHINGTON WITH SENIOR USAF OFFICIALS. THIS MARKS FIRST TIME IZURIETA HAS BEEN PINNED DOWN ON F-5 AND HE WAS MOST POSITIVE IN REQUESTING L/O. WE THEREFORE REGARD MEETING, WHICH WAS FRANK BUT CORDIAL, AS SOMETHING OF A BREAKTHROUGH AND ARE PARTICULARLY DESIROUS OF RESPONDING AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

5. IZURIETA'S DISCUSSION WITH US WAS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED BY MEETING WITH LARGE BRITISH DELEGATION (DATT, 4 OTHER RAF OFFICERS AND SIX CIVILIAN OFFICIALS) IN HIS OFFICE. THIS SUGGESTS THAT LONG-RUMORED PURCHASE OF THE JAGUAR BY FAE IS IMMINENT, AND LENDS EXTRA URGENCY TO OUR REQUEST FOR SUBJECT L/O.
HEMENWAY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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